



Wednesday, January 17, 2018
Anderson House Office Building, Room 521
124 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing MI 48933
12:00pm

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE IN
SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5070**

Good afternoon, Members of the House Local Government Committee. My name is Josh Adams, and today I am speaking on behalf of the community in which I serve. I am the executive director of Owosso Main Street/Downtown Development Authority (OMS/DDA). I have worked in this position for 5 years and have lived in Owosso my whole life.

Today I am here to speak to the success of our local program and to comment that the measures outlined in this bill will ensure best practices across the state so that DDAs like ours can continue to add value in our communities.

Within our DDA district we have seen:

- \$7,567,200.00 of investment throughout Downtown Owosso in the 2016/2017 FY.
 - Over \$12-million since 2014
- \$8-million to \$10-million of additional investment estimated in the next 2-years
- Over 80 facade improvements conducted since 2009 including 6 complete renovations (top to bottom). An additional 5 complete renovations scheduled for 2018/2019.
- Over \$13-million dollars of redevelopment since 2012 has happened due to direct OMS/DDA assistance and/or intervention.
- 94% first-floor occupancy projected for summer 2018
- 100% occupancy in upper-floor residential units as of November 2017
- 2017 saw new construction in downtown for the first time in ten years
- OMS/DDA logged 2,960 total volunteer hours in 2017. Independent Sector (a non-profit tracking firm) values the volunteer hour at \$23.67 for Michigan. This equals to \$70,063.20 of additional investment within the downtown. Without the Main Street program this would not happen.

Our program has a strong relationship with local property owners, merchants, and community organizations. Together, we are each a vital piece in making our district strong and we are all working together to bring our downtown back to life. In addition, our collaboration with regional partners is seeing additional investment throughout our region/county.

As both a DDA and a Main Street community our program seeks the input from all stakeholders within our district and through our active board of directors and committee structure all voices are sought out and transparency is vital.

My hope is that this bill allows our program to continue the work that we are doing in Owosso and creates a mechanism to hold those authorities that do not comply with current law accountable, and ensures even greater transparency in the process.

Thank you again, for your consideration of my comments. I

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